

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 01957 221427Z

ACTION AF-02

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USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA, IBS, IPS; STATE FOR AF/P, AF/W MEDIA

REACTION REPORT

E.O. 11652 N/A

LIBERIAN MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT BY U.S. CONGRESS. ELTV'S I. VAN FISK DEVOTED APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER EVENING NEWSCAST TO STORY. RADIO STATIONS ELBC AND ELWA LIKEWISE OFFERED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. THE INFLUENTIAL "LIBERIAN AGE" OF MARCH 18 HEADLINED, "TOLBERT HAILS BYRD REPEAL - A SIGNIFICANT ACT" AND RAN FRONT PAGE 25 COLUMN INCH STORY DESCRIBING PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S

REACTION TO REPEAL. THE "AGE" WENT ON TO EDITORIALIZE UNDER "AN ARTICULATE RESPONSE: THE REPEALING OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT IS THE MOST POSITIVE STEP SO FAR IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER REFLECTING GENUINE ATTEMPT TO ACCELERATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

LEADING TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE AFRICANS IN THEIR LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

"BY THIS ACT, WE THICK THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PARAPHRASE PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S WORDS, IS HOPEFULLY BECOMING 'MORE ARTICULATE AND EFFECTIVE' IN CHOOSING UPLIFTING PRIORITIES, AS WELL AS PREPARED TO 'PROMOTE A UNIVERSAL CONSCIENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIGNITY AND DEVELOPMENT.'

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"WHEN PRESIDENT TOLBERT SPOKE BEFORE THE AMERICAN CONGRESS LAST YEAR. HE CALLED FOR THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT AS ONE OF THE 'PRIORITIES FOR BRINGING DIGNITY AND SERENITY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.' IF THIS IS A RESPONSE TO THAT PLEA, WE CONSIDER IT A VICTORY AND DO APPLAUD THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION."

THE "SUNDAY EXPRESS" DEVOTED HALF PAGE AND TWO STORIES TO
TOPIC. UNDER "REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT IN U.S. - DR. TOLBERT
EXPRESS SATISFACTION," THE WEEKLY DESCRIBES THE LIBERIAN CHIEF
EXECUTIVE'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE REPEAL AND HIS STRONG APPROVAL
OF ACTION BY U.S. CONGRESS. AS A SECOND ARTICLE THE "EXPRESS"
RAN IPS'S "BAN ON RHODESIAN CHROME - A VICTORY FOR U.S. BLACK
CAUCUS." THE "LIBERIAN STAR," BESET BY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS,
HAS NOT COME OUT SINCE NEWS OF REPEAL.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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